



# Newsletter

WEEK 1 TERM 1: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020



## Remember, no nuts at kindy please

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

A big welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Term of 2020! The Learning Journal is now underway and you will be able to keep abreast of many of the learning moments by viewing it when you come in to the kindergarten. All of the children have settled in well with lots of energy for everything. We hope you have had some interesting stories of their learning at kindy thus far. It has been great to welcome back some families with younger siblings as well as meet many new families and I hope you will all find time to visit with us during the term and see the children at work. It has been good to start getting to know each other and begin learning some of the kindy rules and routines. The children have enjoyed exploring all areas of the kindy and along with the staff team learning new names and individual personalities. We have organised each child's Individual Learning Plan which starts with the Child Questionnaire Form that most families have now returned. If you have not completed yours yet, they were in the information folders given out at the introductory meeting last year, but if you need another copy please let me know.

We will be learning the National Anthem, Advance Australia Fair and talking about how we can all help to make our country a wonderful place for everyone to live, this can start right here in our kindy as we welcome and support each other in our learning journey. In the next few weeks we will also start to learn about the Asian countries around Australia particularly thinking about how they celebrate the Asian New Year. Every year we like to have a family celebration early in the year with this theme. We like to make our annual celebration a New Year Welcome for everyone as we celebrate Asian New Year together. With this in mind, if your family has connections to another culture and would like to dress in a style that represents this culture please feel free to do so at our celebration night. We would also like to have other languages represented by displaying signs with Happy New Year in these languages please provide the staff team with this information for your family. We have been researching flags of each culture represented to have on display and if you have a special activity which your family enjoys at the beginning of the New Year please let me know so we can share this with the children.

If you would like to come in to the kindy and cook a special dish with the children, teach a song in another language, or show us how to play a new game or activity you are most welcome so just let me know so that we can include this in our program. I hope you will quickly begin to feel that kindy is like your second home.

This week the children received their special logo hat which had their name inside, you might like to add your own special touches to this as well. We have been talking with them about what the logo means so perhaps they might be able to tell you? It has been great to see so many children with their names on their belongings and it is good to remember that anything which they bring to kindy is much more easily located if it has your child's name on it,

*Kind regards, Cynthia Meredith*

## Diary Dates

New Year Welcome  
Visiting Night  
Thurs Feb 13<sup>th</sup>  
6:30--7:30pm  
Everyone welcome

Kindy Closure Day  
Tues Feb 18<sup>th</sup>  
NB no kindy on this day

First parent meeting  
Gov Council Meeting  
Wed Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 7:15pm for 7:30pm

Sreyne Market Week  
Mon Feb 24<sup>th</sup> ---Fri Feb 28<sup>th</sup>

Visit of Monty (Boori) Pryor  
Aboriginal Cultural Entertainer  
Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> /Wed 18<sup>th</sup> March  
10am

## Regular Events

**Wednesday & Thursdays**  
*Morn: shared fruit time*

**Fridays**  
Playgroup 9:30-11:30am

## Staff Team for 2020

Cynthia Meredith: *Director*, Louise Montesi: *Teacher*, Tess Gibbs: *Early Childhood Worker*, Crystal Morphett: *Teacher (Thursdays)*, Lenka Velisek: *Lunchcare Worker*, Margaret Cronin: *Relief Teacher*,

## Curriculum Term Overview

The overview is at the front of the Learning Journal. This is the starting point for the term and shows some of the activities which may take place this term but as usual we move with the children's guiding. You will notice there are some cultural events listed and the staff team believe that it is important for the children to continue to broaden their understanding of the many different cultures which make up our diverse nation. In this way we believe that they will develop empathy, tolerance and understanding of different ways of doing things and ideas which will help them as they grow and work with different people. We will be working with the children and their families so that the curriculum will develop with their voice. Our first week began with supporting the children to learn the routines, rules and responsibilities of attending kindergarten. The children were very receptive and eager to embrace all areas of the curriculum. In the coming weeks as mentioned previously we will look at the Asian cultures as we celebrate Asian New Year (a little later than the organised national celebrations) culminating in our first exciting Visiting Night-----  
**Thursday Feb 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm.** All of our families are invited to join us on this night together. We will have some interesting Asian activities for the children to do with adult supervision, a chance for you to write about your New Year family celebrations, opportunities for everyone to practice writing in different languages using different alphabet and finally all of the kindy children will take part together in a dragon dance.

*The timetable for the evening will be as follows:*

6:30pm—7:15pm: free time, families explore activities and outside the main building

7:15pm: 'Dragon Dance' performed outside under the pergola

We hope you can all attend to enjoy the fun and meet the staff team in a relaxed atmosphere. Everyone is encouraged to dress in traditional attire of your own culture, along with the staff team, if you are able. Grandparents and friends are also welcome, if you don't have another culture which you connect with you may like to wear red as this is considered a happy colour in Asia.

## Kindergarten Closure Day—Tuesday Feb 18<sup>th</sup>

The staff team will be having a training and development day and there will be no kindergarten sessions. Please can you make alternative arrangements for your child if this is their normal kindergarten day.

## First Governing Council Meeting for 2019 Wednesday Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm

Have you ever been able to contribute your ideas to how your child will be nurtured and supported to develop their early literacy and numeracy skills and learn to socialise and share with new friends? You are your child's first teachers and the staff team are keen to work with you to continuously improve the kindergarten facilities and curriculum program. You will have opportunity to view and comment on the Quality Improvement Plan which has been compiled for this year and have further information on how the staff team will work with your children to ensure they have are encouraged in all aspects of their development. We look forward to spending some special time with each family at this meeting. Come along and share your suggestions, listen to the ideas of the staff team and other parents and get to know the rest of the kindergarten community have a night off from your parenting responsibilities if you are able.

## Sun Sense Policy

In line with kindergarten sun sense policy could you apply sunscreen at the start of the day and the staff team will reapply sunscreen at the commencement of the afternoon session. If your child has allergies and needs to use a specialised lotion send along the appropriate sunscreen clearly labelled, inform the staff team and this lotion will be applied at the same time for your child. The children will be required to wear a sun hat while playing in the outdoor environment, they may wear an alternative hat to the one they were given provided if it has all round protection from the sun's rays. Please remind your child when they arrive at kindergarten to put on their hat if they are going to play outside.

## Daily Routines

It's great to see everyone familiar with the morning routines, please remember to sign your child in at the desk under the notice pockets and then support your child to find their name on the boards and affix a spot before claiming their name card from the pockets to put on their locker. Whilst we understand that sometimes it is quicker to do it yourself, with practice your child will learn to recognise their name and this is a big step towards their autonomous literacy. At the end of the day we aim to have your child ready for you to collect with all their jobs done but you will still need to sign out and check your child's notice pocket. If you or an authorised person are collecting your child earlier than 3:30pm please ensure that you or the person collecting the child speaks with a staff member and signs your child out with the time they were taken so that there is no confusion in the event of an emergency evacuation. Please do not send in an older child to collect your child as the staff team can only release the children to an authorised adult. In exceptional circumstances arrangements can be negotiated prior to the event.

N.B. This kindergarten will be closed on days which have a weather forecast of Catastrophic. This will be advertised by the CFS the afternoon prior and the director will be advised by the department that the kindergarten should be closed. You will be sent a text message on your mobile phone to inform you of this and I would ask you to reply to say that you have received this notice, otherwise I will need to ring you as well.

## "Shared Fruit"

Each year we have had shared fruit morning break which has encourage many children to try new food with their friends. This year it will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays to enable the majority of children to be involved. On the mornings of shared fruit the children are encouraged to bring their contributions to the kitchen bench where it will be arranged and served at the regular break time, if you have some concerns about this please speak with the staff team, thankyou for your support with this program.

At first some children may be confused by sharing fruit with their peers but the staff team believe that this provides many great oportunities for the children.

1. They see other children enjoying fruit
2. They may try some different fruit with their peers
3. This is another opportunity to put sharing into practice
4. It also promotes different conversations as they compare and match the fruit.
5. A good way to promote appropriate social skills for eating in company

## Snack suggestions for kindy

- We try to suggest that fruit is a good choice for your child's snack, however we understand that is not so for some children. Perhaps some dried fruit, vegie sticks/ cherry tomatoes are more to their liking, rice crackers, dried crackers or pretzels.
- There are lots of suitable options however, it would be appreciated if you would please not send yoghurt for a morning snack. Despite its dietary benefits, it is difficult for children to manage on the steps where we eat out fruit, and a spill is not only messy but also dangerous for some children due to allergies.
- Also as we have an increasing number of children with food allergies, it would be appreciated if you could remember our No Nuts policy, this includes packaged foods which may have been prepared in factories where nut products were processed. Please check the labels as these products will not be allowed for the safety of all.
- Pre Packaged snack /processed foods high sugar and fat, including chips, chocolate and LCM Bars, and sweets will be sent home as an after kindy treat as they are not in line with our Healthy Eating policy and indirectly puts pressure on other children and their families. If you would like to give your child treat as a reward for a long day at kindy, perhaps a swing in the park, or walk together is a healthier option.
- We would also appreciate if only water is sent in children's drink bottles. As well as not being healthy for teeth, cordials and juice can make a sticky mess when spilled which attracts ants. Your child can always fill their drink bottle from the water container provided, and we can supply a cup if they leave their bottle/cup at home.

## Kindy Fees

Kindy invoices will be emailed to you shortly so please could you pay them as soon as possible so they can be finalised by our voluntary treasurer (please let Cynthia know if you do not receive an invoice). One term's fees are \$155 but you may like to pay all of the term fees at one time which will amount to \$620 this

would be most appreciated. If you need to pay this term's fees over a few weeks please speak with Cynthia to arrange this.

### **Star, our Kindy Budgie...**

needs a loving family to look after her each weekend, add your name to the list on the art cupboard if you can help with this care. You don't need special training or licences and all equipment, food etc is provided.

### **Washing Roster**

Here is another way you can show your support of the kindergarten program. The staff team really appreciate your efforts. We have smocks and towels which need a wash each weekend, so don't miss your chance to help with this task, apply to a staff member now you don't need any extra training just pop them in with your normal wash.

### **Sreyne Soeurn—Sponsor Child in Cambodia— Market Week, 24/2/20—28/2/20—Week 5**

The kindergarten sends regular sponsorship money to World Vision and they ensure that it is distributed to care for her. Each term we hold a Sreyne Market Week where families are encouraged to contribute unwanted household items, toys, baked goods and plants. Other families can enjoy them and contribute a donation towards our sponsorship money. This is also contributing to our Wipe Out Waste policy as items are able to be reused and not put into the waste stream. Our market week will not be until later in the term but you might like to give some thought to how you can support the stall. At the end of the week the unwanted items are given to a local charity shop. It would be wonderful if we had a volunteer who could take on the role of coordinating this part of our curriculum. The staff team encourage the children to discover more about Sreyne's life in Cambodia particularly during the week of the market.

### **Monti Prior—Aboriginal Cultural Entertainer—Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> March/ Wed 13<sup>th</sup> March**

Later this term we will have a visit from Monty (Boori) Pryor who is a very skilled performer and relates well to the children. He will be coming on the days mentioned above so that all the children can have this experience. This incursion will be at no charge to families and is part of our curriculum program. .

### **Emailing of newsletter:**

Emailing the newsletter saves paper and time however some parents may wish to have a hard copy to read later please let the staff team know if you would prefer a hard copy and we can print it out for you. There will be some available in the plastic sleeve above the Learning Journal table at the front entrance.

### **Take Home Box**

If your child is looking for a special art work that has not been displayed, check the "Take Home" box under the spot board table. ( However, it is cleared at the end of each Friday, if you would like something special kept longer on a Thursday, say, til the next week, let staff know)

### **Literacy Hint:**

*Next time you are using a recipe / instruction booklet show your child the words, numbers and steps involved. They may even be able to help you in your task, and make the need for literacy purposeful.*

**Our Best Wishes for a great term of learning together in play,  
Cynthia Meredith, Louise Montesi, Tess Gibbs, Lenka Velisek and Crystal Morphett.**